

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

ANNUAL PROPERTY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Lower Wisconsin State Riverway



Property Type: State Riverway

County (Counties):

Columbia, Sauk, Dane, Iowa, Richland, Crawford, Grant

Property Manager:

Matt Seguin

5808 County Highway C, Spring Green WI 53588

(608) 588-7723

Matthew.Seguin @wisconsin.gov

Purpose

The purpose of this Annual Property Implementation Plan is to document and share with our publics and partners a summary of the major planned and proposed forest and habitat management treatments, recreation and infrastructure development projects, and other property management actions. Annual Property Implementation Plans include planned treatments as well as scheduled treatments that may not be implemented in the current year but under consideration for future implementation. This Implementation plan includes a summary of habitat restoration projects, timber sales, tree plantings, prescribed burns and development projects including new or expended parking areas, trails, buildings, roads or other infrastructure. Annual Property Implementation Plans do not include routine maintenance or minor actions, including mowing, building maintenance, inventory or field surveys.

Annual actions are directly tied to the property's master plan, which was approved by the Natural Resources Board in August 2016. The master plan can be accessed online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/> and searching property planning. All of the planned treatments and developments are approved and consistent with the property Master Plan developed with significant additional public input.

A full list of forest and habitat management treatments can be viewed on the Departments web page by searching "Annual Property Implementation Plan"

The Annual Implementation Plan is divided into sections on

- I. Forest management
- I. Recreation management
- II. Facilities management
- III. Wildlife/fisheries habitat management
- IV. Real estate management
- V. Administration
- VI. Partnerships

Forest Management

1. Approximately 200 acre timber sale off of Georgetown Road. This will be a mixed hardwood sale that will utilize group selection, patch selection, and overstory removal in order to promote the pre-existing regeneration.
2. Approximately 31 acre timber sale of Red and White Pine plantations on Pine Road. The goal is to thin and clear-cut in order to convert to a natural Scrub Oak timber type that exists in the understory. More acreage of nearby Pine may be added on based on NHC's recommendations?
3. Two plantings are planned for the property. The first is at Hoover Hollow Road where Swamp White Oak and Walnut will be planted. The second planting will take place at the stone farm on top of the hill where the Autumn Olive has been mowed.
4. Two timber sales totaling approximately 200 acres.
5. A TSI project totaling 80 acres.
6. Plans to plant 8000 Red Oak over roughly 10 acres.

Recreation Management

1. Apply herbicide for unwanted vegetation in the Designated Use Areas (Parking lots, Boat Landings, Picnic Areas, Etc.) throughout the property. The timing of the applications will be during the summer growing season.
2. Develop a new parking lot – 133/hay lane
3. Bridge replacements at WI Heights Battle site trails to replace old/damaged structures.
4. Mazo marsh trails and installation of bridges and boardwalks. DNR is working with Friends of Mazo Marsh for trail development.
5. Millville hiking trails – Convert 9 miles of abandoned management roads and establish 4 miles of new pedestrian access paths.
6. Millville equestrian trails - Develop 5-8 miles of equestrian trails. Expand parking area to accommodate 25 vehicles with trailers.
7. Spring green to pecks landing trail – Work with Driftless Trails group in the development of trail and construction of bridges/boardwalks.
8. Mazomanie to Sauk City trail – The DNR is working with Dane County Parks Department to explore trail route options for a bike trail from the Village of Mazomanie to Sauk City.
9. Abandon Blue river equestrian trails
10. Develop a hiking trail from Avoca to Muscoda with 2-4 miles of trail loops in the area East of Muscoda.

Wildlife, Fisheries, and Habitat Management

1. New sharecrop contracts – WM is entering into two new sharecrop contracts at the Millville Unit as part of an effort to restore native prairie. One field will be converted to corn for two years and then restored, while the other field will be converted to row crop for three years and then restored.
2. OO Property – Establish a timber sale and potentially restoring current low-quality grassland to native prairie/savanna.
3. Plant 3 acres of short grass, native prairie to convert an agricultural field to permanent cover near Avoca
4. Begin permitting discussions to dig a 2-acre scrape at Mazomanie for wetland restoration benefits.
5. Continue working with local farmer to establish 10 acres of sunflowers for dove hunting at Mazomanie

Real Estate Management

The Department of Natural Resources will continue to pursue land acquisitions from willing sellers at a fair market price. However, any potential purchase must meet a series of stringent criteria to assure that limited acquisition dollars are spent on the best parcels for conservation.

1. In 2018, the DNR accepted a donation consisting of 20 acres in the Town of Arena, Iowa County and is completely surrounded by Departmental lands. Further, the parcel, located approximately three miles northeast of the Village of Arena, is landlocked without access. Land coverage consists mainly of wetland and scrub trees and shrubs, the parcel provides additional wet meadow/wetland habitat, and approximately 800 feet of two bank frontage along the Blue Mounds Creek.

Administrative

1. An encroachment on DNR lands West of Avoca has been resolved. The pivot irrigator and farming activities will be removed by May 1st, 2019. The DNR will restore the lands to cool season grass Spring 2019.
2. The DNR has worked with the Pulaski Township in Iowa County to resolve an ownership dispute with Hay Lane leading to the Avoca Prairie State Natural Area. Public access has been restored and is again open for public use.

3. Alliant Energy is exploring options for the installation of solar panels at the Blackhawk Ridge as an alternative to the existing elevated power lines. This potentially would save Alliant Energy considerable time and money in maintaining the power lines.
4. The Department of Transportation is working with the DNR on a project to straighten Hwy 60 between Muscoda and Gotham. Any impacts to the resource and recreational infrastructure is being mitigated. This is a DOT project that is being managed by the DOT.
5. The Department of Transportation's project to replace the Hwy 133 bridge at Lone Rock isn't scheduled for another 10 years. The current plan is to construct a new bridge that will use a different corridor. There is a possibility there may not be access to Long Island.
6. Closure of Blue River Sands SNA road (Wightmann Road) and establish parking areas adjacent to State Natural Area boundary.

Partnership Work

The Lower Wisconsin State Riverway works with numerous partners every year to meet mutual goals. The following are partners the Department of Natural Resources will partner with during 2019 within the LWSR.

1. Lower Wisconsin State Riverway Board – The LWSRB is a separate state agency with scenic performance standards jurisdiction within the project boundary. Permits are required from the Board, on both private and public land, for building or remodeling structures, utility facilities and other development, and for timber harvesting (see ss 30.40 and Administrative Code Chapters RB1, RB2, and NR 37).
2. Friends of the Lower Wisconsin (FLOW) – FLOW is a non-profit member organization that works to protect and preserve the wilderness-type experience of the LWSR. The DNR has partnered with FLOW on multiple projects including the Kids don't float live jacket loaner program, prairie restorations, native American effigy mounds maintenance, Litter removal, and River Safety education efforts.
3. Friends of Mazomanie Marsh (FOMM) – FOMM is a non-profit member organization that works to enhance the recreational opportunities in Northwest Dane County. FOMM has recently been focusing their efforts in trail development on Dane Counties walking iron park and DNR lands in the Mazomanie area.
4. Mazomanie Dog Trial Association – The Mazomanie Dog Trial Association will hold work days to control invasive shrubs and trees on the 200 acre class 1 dog trialing grounds near Mazomanie.
5. Avoca Rod and Gun Club – Continue to partner with the Avoca Road and Gun Club for the release of 400 ring-necked pheasants onto the public hunting grounds in the Avoca area.
6. State Natural Area Volunteers – several SNAs within the LWSR have active volunteer efforts, that anyone can join. Workdays are led by DNR staff as well as Volunteer Stewards who have adopted a particular site. For information including a calendar of work days, and notification email list signup, see <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/naturalareas/volunteer>